REMARKS

Applicant adds new claims 18-24. Therefore, claims 1-24 are now pending in the application.

Applicant amends claims 1 and 10-15 to correct minor informalities and more clearly to recite the features of the invention as claimed therein. These amendments are intended merely to clarify the recitations set forth in claims 1 and 10-15, and to put these claims is a better form.

Applicant adds new dependent claims 18-24 to recite in more detail some of the features of Applicant's invention as disclosed in the specification.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-9 and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Norris et al. (Norris), and claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norris.

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as follows.

Applicant's claimed invention provides a process (claims 1-9), a service computer (claim 10), a switching center (claim 11), terminals (claims 12 and 13), and program modules (claims 14 and 15, see also claims 16 and 17), for handling incoming telephone calls for a subscriber line of a telecommunication network while an online data-network session of a terminal is blocking the subscriber line, comprising unique combinations of method steps (claims 1-9) and features (claims 10-18) including, *inter alia*, incoming call waiting at a switching centre due to the online data-network session of the terminal blocking the subscriber line, and the switching center

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signaling a service center that the incoming call is waiting at the switching center (see

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 10-15).

Norris discloses a facility for providing a "call waiting" feature to a subscriber, whose

telephone station set is connected to the Internet, by forwarding a call that is waiting via the

Public Switched Network to a service platform, which, in turn, establishes a connection to the

subscriber using the Internet and notifies the subscriber, via the Internet, that the call is waiting

(see Id., Abstract).

Contrary to the Examiner's analysis, nowhere does Norris disclose, teach or suggest an

arrangement where a switching center <u>signals</u> a service center that a call is <u>waiting at the</u>

<u>switching center</u> so that the call waiting at the switching center may then be handled.

In particular, Norris discloses a system where:

> the subscriber associated with telephone station S1, FIG. 1, may access the well-known Internet by [causing] ... terminal DT1 to place a telephone call to an Internet access service that the subscriber is associated with, such as Internet Access Service (IAS) 200 to access the Internet, represented by block 300. In doing so, terminal DT1 places telephone line 10 in an off-hook state and then dials the telephone number assigned to IAS 200. Assuming that IAS 200 is not located in the same local dialing region as terminal DT1, then the telephone call will be routed via public switched network (PSN) 100, e.g., the AT&T network. Specifically, upon receipt of the dialed number, then CO 25 ["local exchange carrier"], in a conventional manner, establishes a telephone connection to toll switch (TS) 105 and passes the called number and the ANI associated with line 10 to TS 105. TS 105, in turn and in a conventional manner, establishes a connection to IAS 200 via communication path 150. ... TS 105 thus routes the call to IAS 200 by sending a so-called call set-up message over the signaling channel, in which the message identifies, inter alia, the TI channel carrying the incoming call, called number, and calling ANI. IAS 200 answers the call by sending an "acknowledgment" message over the signaling channel to TS 105. IAS 200 then sends conventional data communications signals to the terminal DT1 software

(e.g., the aforementioned Chameleon software) that is adapted to allow the
subscriber to communicate/interface with Internet 300.

(See Id., col. 1, line 66 through col. 3, line 16.)

In this regard, Norris discloses nothing more than a conventional arrangement where a

subscriber associated with telephone station S1 establishes a connection to the Internet 300 by

means of a terminal DT1 via a conventional public switched network 100 through Internet

Access Service 200.

Norris further discloses that:

> If, while the subscriber is busy "surfing" the Internet, a caller at station S2
> places a call to station S1, then a telephone connection is established in a
> conventional manner from the station S2 telephone line to CO 25 via CO 50, TS
> 110 and TS 105 (FIG. 1). Specifically, responsive to the receipt of the station S2
> call, CO 25 determines that station S1 is busy and that call forwarding has been
> activated at station S1. As such, CO 25, in a conventional manner, directs the call
> to IAS 200 in accord with the call forwarding telephone number that CO 25
> received as interacting with IAS 200 in the manner discussed above. In doing so,
> CO 25 sends a message to TS 105 requesting a rerouting of the station S2 call and
> containing the IAS 200 telephone number as the destination for such rerouting.

(See Id, col. 5, line 48 through col. 6, line 50)

That is, Norris discloses an arrangement where, when a local exchange CO25 of station

S1 determines that subscriber at station S1 is busy "surfing" the Internet, the call from station S2

to station S1 is directed by CO25 "in a conventional manner" to Internet Access Service (IAS)

200 of the subscriber of station S1. Thus, instead of the call from station S2 to station S1 waiting

at a local exchange CO25 (or at a public switched network 100) if station S1 is busy, according

to Norris the call is directed to IAS 200. Contrary to the Examiner's analysis, nowhere does

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Norris disclose, teach or suggest that any of its switching centers <u>signal</u> IAS 200 that a call is waiting <u>at the switching center</u> for further processing, instead Norris simply forward the call from S1 to S2 "to its new destination - IAS 200" (see Id., col. 5, line 58 through col. 6, line 15).

Thus, Norris does not disclose, teach or suggest a process for handling incoming telephone calls comprising, *inter alia*, a switching centre of the telecommunications network <u>signalling</u> to the service computer the fact that an incoming call destined for the subscriber line is <u>waiting at the switching center</u>, as claimed in Applicant's claim 1, and is incapable of teaching or suggesting a service computer for handling incoming telephone calls comprising, *inter alia*, a receiver ... configured such that the service computer can receive a message from a switching centre of the telecommunication network in which the switching centre <u>signals</u> to the service computer the fact that <u>an incoming call destined for the subscriber line is waiting at the switching center</u>, as claimed in Applicant's claim 10. Norris does not disclose, teach or suggest a switching center, as claimed in claim 11, terminals, as claimed in claims 12 and 13, and program modules, as claimed in claims 14 and 15, for analogous reasons.

Therefore, Applicant's independent claims 1 and 11-15, as well as the dependent claims 2-9, 16, 17, 18 and 20-24 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims) are not anticipated by, and Applicant's independent claim 10 and its dependent claim 19 would not have been obvious from, Norris at least for these reasons.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the
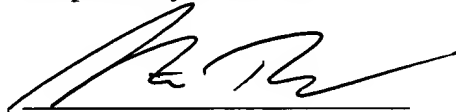
Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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